

Appl. No. 09/920,080
Amdt. dated June 23, 2003
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 Expedited
Procedure Examining Group

PATENT

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A frame for a shelter structure comprising:

an elongated flexible pole having a first end and a second end, said first and second ends terminating in ~~a substantially common plane~~ substantially at ground; and at least one spar having first and second ends, said spar flexibly connected to said pole at a point intermediate said first and second ends of said spar, with at least one of said first and second ends of said spar being free, said pole and said spar thereby forming a flexible frame structure.

Claim 2 (original) A flexible shelter structure comprising the flexible frame structure of claim 1 and a membrane flexibly connected to said flexible frame structure and defining a substantially sheltered space.

Claim 3 (original) The flexible shelter structure of claim 2 wherein said membrane tensions said pole and said at least one spar.

Claim 4 (original) The frame of claim 1 wherein said at least one spar is arranged substantially transversely to said pole.

Claim 5 (original): The frame of claim 1 wherein said at least one spar is directly connected to said pole.

Claim 6 (withdrawn due to restriction requirement)

Claim 7 (original): The frame of claim 1 wherein said at least one spar has a bent shape.

Claim 8 (currently amended) The frame of claim 1 wherein at least one of said first and second ends of said at least one spar ~~does not terminates in said common plane~~ substantially at ground.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The frame of claim 8 wherein neither of said first and second ends of said at least one spar ~~terminates in said common plane~~ substantially at ground.

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PATENT

Claim 10 (previously amended) The frame of claim 1 wherein said pole is capable of flexing in a substantially arcuate shape under tension.

Claim 11 (previously amended) The frame of claim 10 wherein a tensioning means is in communication with said pole to place said pole under tension to cause said pole to flex in said substantially arcuate shape.

Claim 12 (previously amended) The flexible shelter structure of claim 2 wherein said membrane is connected to said flexible frame structure over said pole and said at least one spar.

Claim 13 (withdrawn due to restriction requirement).

Claim 14 (withdrawn due to restriction requirement).

Claim 15 (original) The frame of claim 1 wherein said pole comprises a plurality of interconnected pole segments.

Claim 16 (currently amended) A flexible frame structure for a flexible shelter structure comprising:

an elongated flexible pole having a first end and a second end, said first and second ends terminating in a substantially common plane substantially at ground; and
a plurality of spars flexibly connected to said pole and having first and second ends, each of said spars being connected to said pole at a point intermediate said first and second ends of said spar, with at least one of said first and second ends of said spar being free.

Claim 17 (original) The flexible frame structure of claim 16 wherein one or more of said spars are arranged substantially transversely to said pole.

Claim 18 (original) The flexible frame structure of claim 16 wherein one or more of said spars are directly connected to said pole.

Claim 19 (withdrawn due to restriction requirement).

Appl. No. 09/920,080
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PATENT

Claim 20 (previously amended) The flexible frame structure of claim 16 wherein one or more of said spars is capable of flexing in a substantially arcuate shape under tension.

Claim 21 (currently amended) The flexible frame structure of claim 16 wherein at least one of said first and second ends of said spars ~~does not terminate in said common plane~~ substantially at ground.

Claim 22 (currently amended) The flexible frame structure of claim 21 wherein none of said first and second ends of said spars ~~terminates in said common plane~~ substantially at ground.

Claim 23 (previously amended) The flexible frame structure of claim 16 wherein said pole is capable of flexing in a substantially arcuate shape under tension.

Claim 24 (original): The flexible frame structure of claim 16 wherein said pole comprises a plurality of interconnected pole segments.

Claim 25 (currently amended) A frame for a shelter structure comprising:
an elongated flexible pole having a first end and a second end, said first and second ends terminating ~~in a substantially common plane~~ substantially at ground; and
a spar having a first end and a second end, said spar flexibly coupled to said pole at a point intermediate said first and second ends of said spar, and associated only with said pole to form a flexible frame structure.

Claim 26 (previously amended) The frame of claim 25 including a plurality of spars, each having a first end and a second end and being flexibly coupled to said pole at a point intermediate said first and second end, and each associated only with said pole to form a flexible frame structure.

Claim 27 (withdrawn due to restriction requirement).

Claim 28 (withdrawn due to restriction requirement).

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PATENT

Claim 29 (currently amended) The frame of claim 1 including a guy wire having a first end engaging said spar, a second end terminating substantially ~~in said common plane~~ at ground, and maintaining said frame in a substantially upright position.

Claim 30 (currently amended): The flexible shelter structure of claim 2 wherein said membrane engages said spar, extends substantially to ~~said common plane~~ ground, and maintains said frame in a substantially upright position.